

Galax City Council
Minutes
May 23, 2016

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on May 23, 2016, at 7:30 pm.

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with the following Council persons present and they are as listed: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Lazo, and Councilman Davis.

Councilwoman Crouse prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 9, 2016. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date City Council set for the public hearing on the FY2017 Galax City Budget. The proposed budget was listed as follows:

- General Fund Budget (including DSS) - \$17,683,617
- Utility Fund Budget - \$ 3,147,790

Proposed tax rates represent no change in our current rates and remain at:

- Real Estate - \$0.755 per \$100
- Personal Property - \$2.25 per \$100
- Machinery & Tools - \$1.50 per \$100

With no public comments, Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed. The adoption of the FY2017 Galax City Budget is scheduled for the June 13th meeting.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date City Council set for the public hearing on the revised sanitation ordinance. Keith Barker explained that changes included adding \$1 per month to the base fee and to carry that change into the tier service. He said if approved, the change would affect the September 2016 bill. With no public comments, Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the revised sanitation ordinance. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date set for the public hearing on the proposed revisions to the Stormwater Ordinance. He explained the original ordinance had set \$45 per year as the base equivalent residential unit fee (ERU), however council had set \$0.00 as the fee since the ordinance adoption. The proposed changes set \$1.50 per month, \$18.00 annually, as the base ERU fee.

Funds would be used for storm water capital improvement projects as capital funds or required matching grant funds. Councilman Lazo made the motion to approve the Stormwater Ordinance revision. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council about FY2017 Budget, Revenue Anticipation Bonds. He explained that June 13 had been set as the public hearing for the proposed revenue anticipation bonds. He said staff had been working with our attorney to prepare the advertisement and required documents for consideration. Information had also been sent to four different local banks.

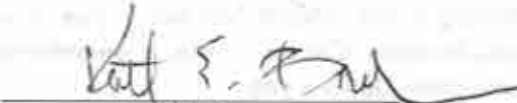
Keith Barker Council about the proposed Motor Vehicle License Fee Ordinance which would eliminate the motor vehicle decal and replace it with a license fee. He explained that staff had reviewed the ordinance and believed it was ready for consideration. Council set June 13 as the public hearing.

Ron Passmore was present to speak on a draft ordinance regarding food service establishments. He explained that recent meetings with the Health Department staff had brought up a possible issue with how some of our festivals operate. Smoke on the Mountain had allowed competitors to give away their barbeque after competition ends, which in the past had been acceptable to the Health Department. The Health Department Inspectors had indicated going forward that each competitor giving away samples would have to pay a \$40 state permit fee and be inspected like any for profit food provider. The Health Department had then provided a draft ordinance as a means to eliminate that fee and inspection. The ordinance basically would eliminate the fee and inspection for charitable non-profits, our schools (sport concessions), City of Galax events (Lords Acre Sale, Fire Department concessions, Recreation Department), etc. It would not eliminate the fee and inspection for vendor trailers such as the ones that are at the Fiddlers Convention, Houston Fest, or food court during Smoke on the Mountain. Keith Barker said the ordinance had been reviewed and amended by our attorney and was similar to ordinances in Grayson, Floyd, and other localities. Councilman Garner made the motion to accept the draft ordinance and set June 13 as the public hearing. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:05 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk